

# THE LEMON GROVE

# REVIEW



Vol. 50, No. 6

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, September 9, 1997 25¢

## East County politico knows how to roll around opponents

by Greg Eichelberger

East County's Steve Baldwin, Republican 76th District Assemblyman, said he found skating faceoffs a lot easier than politics in Sacramento. "The Democrats are much tougher," he joked. "Hockey I'm used to. These guys are totally different creatures."

Despite being a bit rusty, wearing old garden gloves and using out-of-date "quad" skates, Baldwin did not fail to impress during his second "C" level roller hockey contest in over four years last Sunday at El Cajon's Parkway Sports Complex.

As his two young children watched, the 6-foot 2-inch center towered over his competition in more ways than one, slamming home five goals and two assists as his team crushed the opposing squad, 8-3. In his inaugural match a week earlier, he collected three tallies.

He has participated in this sport since 1968, long before the advent of "in-line" type skates. One might call him a true Golden State pioneer of a sport that has grown exponentially in popularity recently. "I started playing in a six-team league in San Diego when I was 12 years-old," said the longtime El Cajon resident, who commutes once a week from there to Sacramento to conduct the affairs of state.

He noted that back then, competition was on tennis and basketball courts, or where-ever else available.

He also organized the first roller hock-



Assemblyman Steve Baldwin (left) faces off in a recent roller hockey game.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

ey league, linking up with other groups around California, finally culminating in the formation of the first national association when he was in high school.

An early Gulls and Kings fan, he also experimented briefly with the concept of ice hockey. He even enrolled at the University of California, Irvine just to join the team (his college, Pepperdine, did not offer the sport).

Later he was involved with the Southern California Collegiate Ice

Hockey Association, but he still loved the feel of skates on the hardwood, even going to the U.S. Nationals with various squads.

A few of his contemporaries on those various amalgamations have gone on to pro careers with the (now-defunct) San Diego Barracudas as well as other North American Roller Hockey League teams, including one which won several national championships.

Baldwin joined them, but soon mar-

ried, ran for office and stopped competing, figuring the sport had lost any popularity it once had. "Boy was I wrong," he said.

After attaining public office in 1994 and becoming a father several times, Baldwin figured getting back into the sport was a good way to have fun and lose weight.

"It'll be about a year's transition before I'm confident enough to actually compete with them (on the in-line skates)," he claimed. "I get tired far quicker on my skates than the others do, because I have to take twice as many strides as they do." But that hasn't affected his skill level, if his eight goal total and ability to deke (fake) out goalies is any indication.

Baldwin will be moving up to "B" league competition after one more game, because he's considered just "too good" where's he's at now.

As far as his hand hardware, he says that he has never liked the immobility of regular hockey protection, adding that in more than 20 years of playing, he has never endangered his digits by not donning the bulky gauntlets, preferring instead to utilize a pair of well-worn garden gloves.

In addition to all of his other duties, he plans to pass on his knowledge and heritage by coaching an eight-and-under children's team when the legislature goes on recess next week. His two boys, ages four and six, will most likely be his first recruits.

## Ian Rand catching up on hitting skills in California League

by Joe Naiman

Former Helix High School player Ian Rand's .232 batting average with the Bakersfield Blaze this year isn't an impressive figure. But it's better than his .215 average with Bellingham last year or his .128 mark with Bellingham in 1995.

In a league where the average age of players is 23, the 20-year-old Rand is playing catchup. The La Mesa resident, who attended Lemon Avenue and Rolando Elementary schools and graduated from Helix in 1995, was drafted in the 11th round by the Giants that June.

The outfielder's career aspirations are in graphics, which can be accomplished with a degree from a two-year college, so the 18-year-old took the opportunity to play professional ball. While his future career plans might not require college, Rand found himself playing against players who had four years of college experience.

"The caliber of the other players is just tremendous," he said. "You've got to catch up in about a year if you're going to be able to do this."

In addition to the experience of playing against those good enough to make a college team, the minor leaguers who played college ball obtained experience in road games out of town, while Rand went home every night after high school games.

While both high school and college players go from a combination of classes and baseball to full-time practice and games upon turning pro, college veter-

ans often have more experience with night games.

"It's very tough. It's a tough life to get used to, a totally different schedule," said Rand, who arrives at the ballpark around 2 p.m. during the season and is often there until midnight.

While Rand finds it difficult to adjust to different hotels every night, he does enjoy visiting the various cities of the minor league circuits in which he's played. On the other hand, the seven-figure contracts for Major League players are years away, and at the Class A level, Rand earns about \$1,000 a month. He noted that it's a real tough life and a lot of people don't realize that.

For that \$1000 a month, Rand's body goes through a rigorous beating. "Your main goal is to make it to the big leagues. You've got to get used to it."

The dream of reaching the majors is why Rand keeps enduring the life of a minor league ballplayer. He felt that if he can keep improving like he has been in the last couple of years, he probably has a pretty good shot.

In Rand's first professional season, he played 23 games in the short-season Northwest League. He spent the first part of 1996 in extended spring training before returning to Bellingham, where he played in 53 games last year.

Rand spent the first part of 1997 in extended spring training, but this time he jumped to the California League. "It's a pretty big jump. It's like skipping two levels. I was pretty excited about that."



Ian Rand can take Bakersfield for a while ... he's only 20.

Photo by Joe Naiman

A hamstring injury in early August, along with the Blaze's platoon system (the right-handed Rand starts when opponents use a left-handed starting pitcher), limited Rand to 82 at-bats in the California League, but those at-bats produced 19 hits. Rand believes that the mental game as well as his hitting have been his greatest areas of improvement.

Playing in the California League didn't hurt, either. Lake Elsinore is about 75 miles from La Mesa, so the Bakersfield trip there allowed his family and friends to see him play - and to see him.

"It's always fun to see them when

you're gone for six months out of the year," noted Rand.

Now that Rand has played professionally for three seasons, he is eligible for the expansion draft. The scouts for Arizona and Tampa Bay may or may not have their eyes on Rand, but the outfielder is prepared.

Even if Rand isn't taken in the expansion draft, he could end up as a throw-in during a trade of major league organizations.

Bobby Rector, who had been Rand's only teammate from San Diego County on the Blaze, was traded to the Florida organization in July.

"There are always eyes watching you," he said. "You're always supposed to be on your toes, give 100% every day, and that's what catches their eye."

Some of those eyes belong to Giants scouts and coaches, checking to see if Rand had potential and when he is ready to move up to the next level.

Because Rand is three years younger than the league average, the organization has been patient with him.

"I think if I make the same progress as I did last year and come out next year strong, I think I'll be all caught up."



## Community Notes

### Chamber to present dinner seminar

The Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce will be presenting a dinner seminar on from 6 - 8:30 p.m. tonight at Tyler's Taste of Texas in Lemon Grove.

Topics of discussion will include the following:

- Business continuity planning
- Motivating and keeping key employees
- Transferring your business at retirement, disability or death and keeping Uncle Sam out of the transition
- Special retirement plans designed for the business owner and highly compensated
- Solutions to those who pay too much in taxes

The special guest speaker will be Richard Lindsay, CLU, AEP, ChFC. Lindsay is the published author of "Wealth Enhancement & Preservation, Practical Answers from America's Experts" and is a noted public speaker.

COST: \$15 (includes meal). Please RSVP to the Lemon Grove Chamber Office at 469-9621.

### Christian Women's Club to hold fashion show

The Grossmont Christian Women's Club will be holding an Affordable Elegance Fashion Show, Second Time Around Designer Notes, from 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. on Thursday at the La Mesa Women's Club, 5220 Wilson, La Mesa.

Featured in the limelight will be former model Pat Swift and musician Betty Scott. Luncheon and free child care reservations may be made by calling Norie, 562-6118, or Gerry, 449-6350. Reservations and cancellations are necessary.

### Barrel racers to compete Sunday in Lakeside

The West Coast Barrel Racers will be competing in Lakeside starting at 10 a.m. Sunday at Rasco's Arena, 12139 Moreno Ave. Signups will begin at 9 a.m.

There will be five jackpot events: Open, Green Horse Under \$200, Green Horse Under \$1500, Novice and Pole Bending. The money earned in the events will count in the season standings for the circuit's April-through-March season.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CITY OF LEMON GROVE

#### NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Engineer of the City of Lemon Grove, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California, up to the hour of:

2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, the 23rd day of September, 1997 for performing work as follows:

#### 1997 STREET RESURFACING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE CONTRACT NO. 97-22

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, supervision, labor, and incidentals required to complete the above stated project. The work consists of street resurfacing on Broadway and Lemon Grove Avenue, slurry sealing various locations around the City and striping for bicycle lanes on Grove and Buena Vista.

The bids received will be publicly opened and read at the City Offices, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, CA 91945, at the time stated above. Award shall be made by the City Council at a meeting subsequent to the date above set for the opening of bids. The bid package may be examined at the Lemon Grove City Hall, 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California. Copies of the bid package and the specifications may be obtained at that location at a non-refundable charge of \$30.00 per set. The mailing fee is an additional \$20.00. All bidders should direct their questions during the bidding period to Carmen Fink of John Powell & Associates, Inc. at (760) 753-1120.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 9, Division III of Business and Professions Code. The bidder for this Contract must possess a valid C-12 Earthwork and Paving Contractors License.

The successful bidder must have a City of Lemon Grove Business License prior to commencement of work.

The City Council of Lemon Grove hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement for bids, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements of wage rates to be paid under the Contract. It should be noted by all bidders that the current State Prevailing Wage Rate Scale for the San Diego area will be required to be paid by all bidders under the conditions of the Contract. Specifically, this wage scale is the most recent "General Prevailing Wage Determination Made By The Director Of Industrial Relations Pursuant To California Labor Code Division 2, Chapter 1, Part 7, Articles 2, 3, and 5." It shall be the responsibility of the Prime Contractor to comply with all applicable sections of the California Labor Code including but not limited to Sections 1776 and 1777.5.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or any combination of bids. Bids must be accompanied by a 10% bid bond as specified in Section 1. Bidders Instructions of the bid documents. No bidder may withdraw his bid without forfeiture of his bid bond within sixty (60) calendar days after the actual date of the bid opening.

Prospective bidders are hereby directed to pay particular attention to the applicable section in the bid package for full directions and requirements as to submittal of bids, bonds and agreements.

Date: September 1, 1997  
Charles D. Stuck  
Public Works Director/  
City Engineer

The City of Lemon Grove complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act. If you require reasonable accommodations for this bid opening, contact the City Public Works Department at (619) 464-6934 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled opening.

Lemon Grove Review  
September 2 & 9, 1997

## The Lemon Grove Review

(USPS NO. 309-840)

Is published semiweekly by Forum Publications, Inc., 3434 Grove Street, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. Periodicals postage paid at Lemon Grove, CA 91945. POSTMASTER: PLEASE SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW  
Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA  
91946 • (619) 469-0101

Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation in Superior Court of State of California in and for San Diego County, December 5, 1949.

Adjudication Number 155392.  
\$18 yearly in San Diego County.  
\$40 yearly elsewhere in U.S.A.

Steven Saint, Publisher

Assistant to the publisher

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Sports editor: Mary Rosen

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Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com.

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

## Lemon Grove Almanac

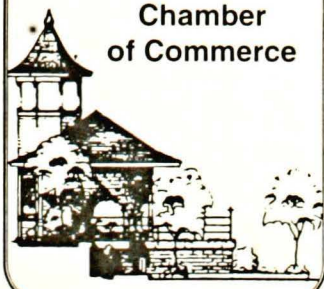
1994 Population: 25,100  
Incorporated: 1977  
Area: 3.75 sq. mi.  
Median income: \$34,399  
1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million  
1996 taxable sales: \$265 million  
Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom  
Council: Thomas Clabby  
Craig Lake  
Dwight Shelley  
Jeff Jandura

City Manager: Doug Yount  
Planning Director: Jim Butler  
City Attorney: Gloria McLean  
City Clerk: Christine Taub  
Sheriff's Capt.: Yolanda Collins  
Fire Chief: Dale Chamberlain  
Congressional district:  
52nd - Duncan Hunter  
State Senate district:  
40th - Steve Peace  
State Assembly district:  
77th - Steve Baldwin  
Supervisory district:  
2nd - Dianne Jacob  
High school:

Libraries: 1  
Post offices: 1  
Parks: 4  
Recreation centers: 1

## Proud Member

Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce



## M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

One of the most interesting parts of serving on the Lemon Grove City Council is the variety of issues we deal with. Most of the issues have financial consequences to the city so that is where our focus tends to be first. After that, we deal with the other aspects of an issue. Sometimes the non-monetary considerations that most concern residents may get missed in the mind of the council.

The proposed contract with the San Miguel Fire Protection District for fire services is an example of this. The council has focused its attention on the financial savings of this contract, and rightly so. Then, we have considered the increased levels of service. We can project future cost savings based on different formulas, but the increased service to our citizens is more difficult to estimate. And, our citizens, especially our seniors, are concerned about the service they will receive from another fire department. After some reflections, I felt I had a way to gauge whether our residents would really get the same or better service as they have now. I would "ride along" with both fire departments.

On a very hot Friday, I committed 12 hours to our fire department. I received a fitting for the "equipment" I would need to use during the day. I was shown where to ride on the engines, how to use the radios, hoses, etc. (They wouldn't let me do anything, if we went to a real fire but it was fun to pretend.) I climbed up the ladders and looked over the shoulders of the captains. I interacted with the Sheriff's deputies, paramedics, Senior Patrol and citizens who called us for help.

The following Friday (hot again), I spent 12 hours at the San Miguel Fire Station on Austin Drive in Spring Valley. I did everything I had done the previous Friday in Lemon Grove, as well as some fire inspections of local businesses. There are more chiefs at this facility, so I had lots of interaction with their managers.

At the end of each "ride along," I came home hot and tired, but I was impressed with the level of professionalism and team spirit that I saw at both fire stations. All the firefighters did their jobs well even under trying circumstances. There was enthusiasm when dealing with the public (kids and adults alike talked to the firefighters when we went shopping for our dinner supplies). There was also compassion for the people they were helping. The business inspections were done efficiently and unobtrusively.

Some city councilmembers seem to be focusing their attention on whether or not we can squeeze another \$1,000 out of an already reasonable contract proposal or force the hiring of an unneeded probationary employee. In my mind, one of the most important questions involving this contract with the San Miguel Fire District has been answered - our citizens will continue to receive the courteous service and professionalism they have come to expect from our Lemon Grove Fire Department.

## Letters to the Editor

### Misinformation obscures hospital suit

No one seems to understand why the Grossmont HealthCare District filed its suit against Sharp HealthCare. Several letters to the editor on this matter were based on complete misinformation. The district board's decision is based on facts.

Fact: In 1991, the siting district board leased the hospital to Sharp for \$1 a year and the assumption of debt that would be paid off from the hospital's revenue.

Fact: Over the next several years, district residents elected new board members who believed the lease was not in the best interests of district residents. The board retained the law firm of Steffel, Levitt & Weiss to conduct an independent investigation of the lease.

Fact: Based upon the results of that investigation, which showed that prohibited conflicts of interest had likely tainted the lease, the board sought to renegotiate an equitable, arm's-length transaction with Sharp HealthCare.

Fact: When those negotiations failed, the board had no option other than to file the lawsuit. Failing to disclose the conflicts of interest would be contrary to our fiduciary duty. Retaining the existing, tainted lease would be contrary to our fiduciary duty. We had no option that would fulfill our duty to the district residents who elected us.

Those are the facts.

WILLIAM C. HERRICK, M.D.

Member, Grossmont HealthCare District Board of Directors

### Agree with Goldman on justice reform

I feel the public owes a debt of gratitude to Fred Goldman, father of Ronald, a victim in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, who is outraged enough at the injustice of the criminal justice system to work at reforming it, as he goes about speaking publicly on the issue.

There certainly is a strong warning to the silent majority on the sidelines in his message that "25,000 people a year are murdered in this country, and we tolerate it."

I too am alarmed at the high rate of murders in this country and despondent at the silence with which they are accepted - as if we are unaware that the only respected silent majority are to be found in cemeteries.

CANDIDA CANGE

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# Mount Helix tournament kicks off AYSO fall soccer season

by Michael Krawczak

For the fourth consecutive year, hundreds of young soccer players faced off in preseason competition with their new teams at the Mount Helix Labor Day Tournament in La Mesa's Harry Griffin Park.

Forty-one Area V teams took the field. Although the majority hailed from La Mesa, the East County cities of Alpine, El Cajon, Lakeside and Santee were also represented.

All teams were registered for the fall AYSO season, meaning each had been formed just one month earlier.

The Mount Helix Tournament was created to give these new teams an opportunity to face some early actual competition so as to prepare better for

the long season ahead, as well as to allow the top 12 teams to go home with medals.

After a hectic three days, tournament director Ed Lewis proclaimed the event a success. "It was fun and competitive," he said, adding that the kids really enjoyed it.

The number of teams participating increased by 10 over the preceding year. Each team opened with three pool games, with the top two finishers from each pool advancing to division semifinal matches on Monday morning. Championship games were held on Monday afternoon, followed by medal ceremonies for the 1st and 2nd place teams.

Six teams, displaying what might be described as midseason form, emerged victorious.

While each team member can treasure a shiny new championship medal, they've also, perhaps, established themselves as the teams to watch as the fall season unfolds.

In the Division 3 Boys finals, La Mesa's Psychopathic Smurfs downed crosstown rival Diamondbacks, 5-0. Michael Iafe anchored the Smurfs' defense which held tournament foes to a single goal. Coach John McMack noted the front line offensive attacks of Andrew Swaner and Marcus Johnson. The team jelled around them," said McMack.

Along with Iafe, Danny Zaldivar and Brandon McMack manned the Smurfs' net.

Coach McMack was pleased with his team's effort, passing, communication and support for each other. Eagerly looking forward to the fall season, he proudly declared that we are the team to beat.

Another all-La Mesa final saw Total Chaos defeat the Smurfs, 3-0, for the Division 3 Girls championship. In a bizarre round of pool games, Total Chaos advanced to the semifinal after playing to three ties. Ultimately, they held their opponents scoreless in four of their five games. Coach Bob Ball noted the passing, foot speed and team play of his squad. I'm proud of the girls," he declared. They're a great team."

The Santee Smurfs defeated the La Mesa Bad Boys, 2-0, to take the Division 4 Boys crown. Daniel Krawczak and Darren Cichocki were superb in the net, holding opponents to a total of just two goals over the five games.

Zach Shepard, Ricky Garcia, Eric Hughes, Anthony Fortini and Joshua Vazquez were among the Smurfs who added to team total of 16 goals. Rookie Ryan Cichocki notched his first career score. Krawczak's powerful boot from 40 yards out sailed into the net following one big bounce.

## Gilman to speak at symposium

Sid Gilman, one of the San Diego Chargers most successful head coaches, will be speaking at a symposium on "How to Watch and Understand Football."

The National Football Foundation (NFF) seminar will begin at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Cubic Corp. headquarters, 9333 Balboa (corner Ruffin Road and Balboa in Kearney Mesa).

Conducting the class will be Rancho Bernardo High School coach Bill Christopher and USD coach Brian Fogarty. A panel of former all-star players will be available to answer questions.

Gilman said that the seminar is for everyone, not just for women who want to understand football, so that they can better understand the game.

Cost of the two-hour seminar is \$45, which includes pizza and soft drinks and membership in NFF and College Hall of Fame. For information, call 277-0128.



During Mount Helix Labor Day Tournament final last weekend, a Div. 4 player from La Mesa Bad Boys (dark top), winds up for kick against Santee Smurfs. Santee won match, 2-0.  
Photo by Mike Krawczak

Ahead 1-0 late in the final, the Smurfs were awarded a penalty kick. In an unusual move, Coach Mike Usher called goalkeeper Darren Cichocki out of the net to take the kick, which he drove past the Bad Boy goalie for a score, sealing the victory. Usher described it as simply giving a defensive player a rare opportunity to score.

G. J. Glutz and Chris Olson were solid on defense for the Smurfs, while Bobby Alldis, Mark Brandon and Jeremy Kessling controlled the midfield.

"They played very well for a team that's only been together four weeks," declared Usher.

Usher also praised his assistant coach, Steve Fortini, and thanked the Smurfs' sponsors, Sports Photography, Inc. and Dr. Walt Drexel.

The La Mesa Burgundy Bandits downed El Cajon Unmatched, 2-0, in the Division 4 Girls final. With outstanding goaltending by Maegan Murphy and Danielle Muller, the Bandits notched four tournament wins and one tie, outscoring their opponents, 6-1. In the opening pool game, Stefanie Mah's goal with five minutes remaining gave the Bandits a 2-1 win. In another pool contest, Laura Felice scored the game's only goal.

Angie Cole, Kristina Morgan and Alexis Powell provided defense, while Joelle Goforth, Allie Grooms, Brittney Slaughter and Tori Berdux stayed strong in the midfield. Rachel

Ikler and Jessica Winet helped out on offense for Coach Kurt Morgan's team.

In another all-La Mesa final, the Blazers defeated the Blue Sharks, 3-2 in double overtime, to take the Division 5 Boys championship. Nicky Iafe tied the game with one minute remaining in regulation play, then went on to score the winning goal in overtime.

Coach Randy Molde's quartet of goalkeepers, Patrick Dantes, Jade Molde, Anthony Frank and Kyle Kamau, held opponents scoreless until the final. Ryan Claus and Riley Richardson were the top scorers for the Blazers, with four goals each.

Also scoring were Frank, Matt Patterson, Billy Smelko, Shawn Ferreria, Nick Tamagni, and Allan Singleton, who tallied his first career goal. Molde also noted the great defense and passing of David Sanchez.

In a fourth all-La Mesa final, the Teal Tigers edged the Shooting Stars, 2-1, for the Division 5 Girls title. Katrine Teplitsky topped all scorers with five goals.

Haley Davidson and Erin Cylke each scored twice, and Jessica Rozok added the team's other goal. Goalkeepers Krissy Waller, Lauren Holt and Elizabeth Epstein combined to allow just three tournament goals.

"They surprised us," declared Coach Kevin Bland, who noted that the Tigers had only managed six practices prior to the tournament.

## Sports Beat

with Greg Eichelberger



Another blistering week here in the East County. In fact, this is the kind of weather that only a Jamaican bobsled team could love, but since there's no Jamaican bobsledders here, I guess no one is happy about the climate. Anyway, here's the sports news I know you crave.

On the Chargers' front, Coach Kevin Gilbride refuses to let anyone know about players' injuries until three or four days after the fact, berates his publicity staff and then guides his team to an embarrassing 41-7 defeat at the hands of New England. Well, I guess I know why he's so loved in this community - not! Even the *Union-Tribune's* Nick Canepa, who couldn't stop praising the Bolts previously, has begun to question his tactics.

Meanwhile, a squad with a lower profile and higher expectations, the SDSU Aztecs, won its first game Friday over the Naval Academy, 45-31. He may not be a pro coach, but the 'tecs' Ted Tollner has much more respect at this point. I'll update everyone on the local boys playing for them at a later date.

A panel of "experts" and teachers, including former Bolts' head man, Sid Gilman, will give a presentation entitled "How to Watch and Understand Football" tomorrow (see story elsewhere on this page). How's about a symposium on "Why to Watch and How to Understand San Diego Chargers' Football." Why not?

Christian High School grad, Sarah Dawson helped her Orlando Wahoos (does ANYONE know what this nickname refers to?) win the first Women's Professional Fastpitch Softball championships, with a three-games-to-one victory over the Virginia Roadsters. Dawson tossed two innings of shutout ball in the team's 11-1 title-clinching game four win last Sunday.

Speaking of diamond heroics, another Christian alum, Tony Clark, now playing first base for the Detroit Tigers, smacked a three-run home run to help the Bengals defeat the Anaheim Angels (and possibly end their pennant drive), 4-3. The circuit clout, Clark's 30th of the season, gave him 108 RBIs and his El Cajon mother (who follows his every statistic) a big smile, no doubt. In fact, the day before, he deposited a John Smoltz (remember him, the 1996 Cy Young Award winner?) pitch into the bleachers, driving in two of his mates ahead of him. He still didn't make the All-Star team, thanks to stupid voters. Major League rules requiring at least one representative from every club. The psychotic Joey (Albert) Belle was on the squad, but refused to play in Cleveland because he might be booed (poor baby).

**PADRES WATCH:** A strange week, what with a split against the Mariners at Seattle, the call up of seven players from the club's AAA Las Vegas affiliation, a near no-hitter by Andy Ashby (broken up in the ninth by Atlanta's Kenny Lofton) and Tony Gwynn's falling batting average (a weird slump that many haven't seen in quite some time).

It seems that the grand opening of the Lakeside Boys & Girls Club gymnasium, originally scheduled for Sept. 19, has been postponed. When I find out exactly when it will take place, you'll be the first to know. I suppose.

My apologies to Monte Vista roller hockey coach, Bob Trellford. Seems I was supposed to meet him and his charges at Kearney Mesa's RHI Skate Center for an interview and some photos last Tuesday. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the place. Hopefully, I'll work this particular snafu out after my knee surgery.

Don't forget to listen to Joe Noris' "Hockey Talk" every Saturday morning from 11 - noon on KCBQ 1170 AM. Noris, who runs the Parkway Sports Complex in El Cajon, is a former Gull whose knowledge of the sport is immense. Guest will include head coach Steve Martinson and other members of the Taylor Cup champs, La Mesa's Willie O'Ree, El Cajon's Steve Baldwin and others. Maybe even yours truly will show up. Who knows?

If you want to show up, in this column, at least, just dial 390-7103, today. In fact, I'll be home all week recuperating (if I survive the operation, that is) and ready to take your call. Until then, have a great sports week.



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